

REMARKS

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, Claims 1-10 are pending in this application. The Examiner rejected Claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, rejected Claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b), and rejected Claims 4-6 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). New Claims 7-10 have been added in the foregoing amendment.

Claim 3 is Definite

The Applicants have amended Claim 3 to clarify that the second support includes a plurality of supports extending symmetrically relative to the first support. Accordingly, Claim 3 is now definite.

Claims 1-3 Are Not Anticipated by Ito

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-3 as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,342,013 to Ito et al. ("*Ito*"). The Applicant traverses this rejection for the reasons discussed below.

Claim 1

The seat slide of Claim 1 requires a first guide, a second guide, a leading member, and a cap which comprises a first support for supporting the leading member, and a second support extending from the first support toward the second guide for supporting the second guide, the distal end of the second support and the second guide being positioned in proximity to each other, defining a gap between the distal end and the second guide. Thus, even when there is a burr on the inner side of the second guide, the cap can still be mounted to the second guide as long as the size of the burr is within the tolerance provided by the gap between the distal end and the second guide, which increases overall productivity of the seat slides, yet the distal end can support the second guide when stress is applied to the second guide.

In contrast, *Ito* discloses a seat slide having first guide 4, a second guide 3, a leading member 8, and a cap 9 which comprises a first support 9e and a second support extending

from the first support toward the second guide 3. The distal end of *Ito*'s second support however, abuts the second guide 3 with no gap formed between the distal end and the second guide, as shown in Fig. 4. Therefore, *Ito* fails to disclose that the distal end of the second support and the second guide being positioned in proximity to each other, thereby defining a gap between the distal end and the second guide, as required by Claim 1. Accordingly, Claim 1 is not anticipated by *Ito*.

Claims 2-10

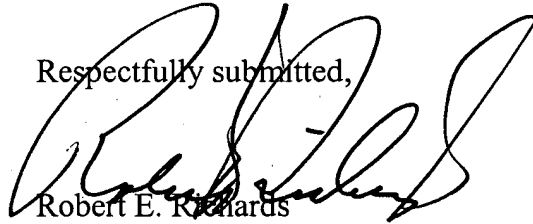
Claims 2-10 depend from independent Claim 1. The remarks made above in support of the independent claim are equally applicable to distinguish the dependent claims from *Ito*.

The Examiner rejected dependent Claims 4 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Ito* in view of Japanese Utility Model Laid Open No. 63-105536 to Akira Nemoto ("*Nemoto*") and rejected dependent Claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Ito* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,476,326 to Ueno et al. ("*Ueno*"). *Ito*, the principal reference, fails to show or suggest that the distal end of the second support and the second guide being positioned in proximity to each other, thereby defining a gap between the distal end and the second guide. Neither of the secondary references overcomes the teaching deficiency of *Ito* discussed above. Accordingly, Claims 4-6 would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill from the cited references at the time the Applicant made the claimed invention.

CONCLUSION

The foregoing is submitted as a complete response to the Office Action identified above. This application should now be in condition for allowance, and the Applicant solicits a notice to that effect. If there are any issues that can be addressed by telephone, the Examiner is asked to contact the undersigned at 404.745.2408.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert E. Richards", is written over the typed name.

Robert E. Richards

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